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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

COMMUNICATION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on December 5, 2003 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. It is noted that in the IDS Applicants have authorized the Office to charge any necessary fee deficiency; however, consideration of an IDS after mailing of a notice of allowance but before payment of the issue fee requires both the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) and a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see 37 CFR 1.97 and *MPEP* 609).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diana B. Johannsen whose telephone number is 571/272-0744. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones can be reached at 571/272-0745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana B. Johannsen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Diana B. Johannsen
Patent Examiner
May 3, 2004